A DISCOURSE CONCERNING TRADE,

And that in particular of

The East-Indies,

Wherein ſeveral weighty Propoſitions are full diſcuſſed, and the State of the *Eaſt-India* Company is faithfully ſtated.

THe *Author* craves leave in the firſt place, to preſent the *Reader* with ſome general *Opinions* concerning Trade, which *experience* hath recommended to the approbation of the moſt *Judicious*.

1. That trading *Merchants*, while they are in the buſie and eager proſecution of their particular *Trades*, although they be very wiſe and good men, are not always the beſt *Judges of Trade*, as it relates to the profit or power of a *Kingdom*. The reaſon may be, becauſe their *Eyes* are ſo continually *fixt*, and their *Minds* intent upon what makes for their peculiar *gain* or *loſs*, that they have not leiſure to expatiate, or turn their thoughts to what is moſt advantagious to the *Kingdom* in general. The like may be ſaid of all *Shop-keepers*, *and other Trades-men*, until they leave off their Trades and by the purchaſe of *Lands*, become of the ſame common *Intereſt* with moſt of their *Country-men*.

2. Upon the ſame reaſon, a mixt Aſſembly of *Noble men*, *Gentle-men* and *Merchants*, are the beſt *Conſtitution* for the making *Rules*, *Orders* and *By-Laws*, for the carrying on any *Trade* for the publick utility of the *Kingdom*.

3. That all Trade, *domeſtick or forreign*, that doth not in the reſult, increaſe the value of *Land*, ought to be totally rejected.

4. That all *Monopolies* are deſtructive to *Trade*, and obſtruct the increaſe of the value of our *Lands*, and that therefore, if there be any thing in any Charter of Incorporated

Tenants, that hinders any of their Majesties Subjects from coming into that Trade, upon as good terms as others did, or yet may, it is fit that such bars should be removed.

5. That if all *Strangers* had free Liberty to enter into any of our *Incorporated* forreign Trades, as is practised by the *Dutch*, it would greatly increase our *Trade*, and improve the value of *Land*.

6. That those narrow Clauses in the *Turky Companies*, and other *Charters*, which limit the Traders to be Free-men of *London*, and not to be *Shop-keepers*, &c. And the practice of admitting no Man to be free of the *Turky Company* under 25 *l.* if he be under 25 years of age; or 50 *l.* if above, are to the prejudice of the Nation in general.

7. The *Dutch*, *Nationally speaking*, are the wisest *People* now extant, for the contriving and carrying on their Trades for the publick advantage of their Country.

8. That the *dominion* of the *Sea* can never be retained, preserved and maintained, but by the excess and *predominancy* of forreign *Trade*.

9. That *domestick* and *forreign* Trade (as also Land) do wax and wain together.

10. That *Silver* and *Gold*, coined, or uncoined, tho' they are used for a measure of all other things, are no less a Commodity then *Wine*, *Oyl*, *Tobacco*, *Cloth* or *Stuffs*, and may in many cases be exported as much to National advantage as any other Commodity.

11. That no *Nation* can be considerable in Trade that prohibits the Exportation of *Bullion*.

12. That it is more for the publick advantage to export *Gold* or *Silver*, coined than uncoined; for by the former we gain the *Manufacture*.

13. That whatever Nation hath the *lowest Interest*, will certainly have their *Lands* in highest esteem and price: and no Nation shall ever over-match the *Dutch* in Trade, till they rate them in the rate of *Interest Money*.

14. That the *Dutch* gain more by exportation of *Bullion* and forreign Commodities than by all their own native Productions and *Manufactures*.

15. That when ever wise and great Nations, having different Interests, and various Forms of Government, do yet conspire in the same means to accomplish the same ends, of Profit, Power and Honour, they are to be concluded nearer the right way to those ends, then the wisest and best private men living, who hold contrary Opinions, swayed by personal Profit or Loss, Pique or Prejudice.

16. That there is just as much need of Companies of Merchants in *England* as in *Holland*, and no more. The *Dutch* have no Companies of Merchants, but those of the *East* and *West-Indies*, and those in joynt Stocks, protected and defended by the Laws of the *Provinces*, which are of the same force as Acts of *Parliament* with us.

17. That there is a necessity of a *joynt Stock* in all forreign Trade, where the Trade must be maintained by Force and Forts on the Land, and where the *King* cannot conveniently maintain an Amity and *Correspondence* by *Ambassadors*, and not elsewhere.

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To proceed, the Propositions intended to be handled, follow First, *That the* East-India *Trade is the most Nati-onal of all forreign Trades.*

Which is thus proved, *(viz.)*

1. WHat the *Dutch, French, Danes, Portugals*, and which not long since the *Swedes*, and now the *Duke of Brandenburgh*, have with so great charge and expence attempted, and hedged about with *Laws and Encouragements*, must certainly be matter of the greatest *National* Consequence.

2. This *Trade* imploys more great War-like *English Ships* from 50 to 70 Guns, then all the Trades of the World from *England* besides.

3. This *Trade* alone furnishes us with *Salt-Petre*, a most necessary Commodity.

4. Above four fifth Parts of the Commodities imported by this Trade, are again exported, to the vast encrease of *Navigation*; by the returns of which, more than treble the *Bullion* is imported that was first exported to *India*.

5. If the Trade of the *East-Indies* were not in *English* hands, the *East-India* Commodities would come in from *Holland*, and that with this difference, that we should pay as much for *Pepper* now sold for 8 *d.* the pound, as for *Nutmegs, Cloves, Mace, Cinnamon*, which is from 6 *s.* to 15 *s. per* pound, which tho' cheaper at the places of their growth, the *Dutch* enhaunse by having the sole Trade for them; this saves the *Kingdom* in that respect only 500000 *l. per annum.*

6. This Trade doth more work upon the *Manufactures* of our *Neighbours*, than any other *forreign* Trade; and whatever weakens them, enriches and strengthens *England*. it is reasonably computed, that *Italy, France, Holland, Flanders*, &c. *(the Staple Countries for Silks and fine Linnens)* by the Importation of *East-India* Silks and Callicoes, not only into *England*, but from thence into those Countries, are abated in those fine Manufactures above a *Million of Pounds* Sterling *per annum.*

7. It is thought that above 40000 Families in *England* are employed in *Silk-broad weaving*, tho' that Trade began here but about the beginning of King *Charles* the first. In a few Years more this Nation may be treble the number in such *Manufactures*, since the *East-India* Company bring *Raw Silk* cheaper then it can be afforded in *Turkey, France, Spain*, or any other place where it is made, and do serve *Holland, Flanders*, and some other Markets from *England*.

8. This *Trade* pays the *King* 60000*l. per annum Custom*, and carries out yearly 60 or 70000*l.* in *Lead, Tinn, Cloth, Stuffs*, &c. of our own Production and Manufacture, which would not be sent at all, if *England* were deprived of this Trade, because neither *Dutch* nor *French* would enure the *Indians* to our *Manufactures.*

The Second *Proposition, that the Clamours, Aspersions, and Objections made against the present* East-India *Company, are sinister, selfish, or groundless.*

Object. 1. SOme of the *Turkey* Merchants say, The bringing in of so much *Silk*, and so cheap, is a publick *Nusance*, and destroys their Trade, which depends wholly upon the Exportation of *Woollen Manufacture*, whereas the *East-India* Company send out little Manufacture, and much *Bullion*, &c.

Answ. 1. 'Tis strange Doctrine to Men skilled in Trade, that the making a Material ap, that is to be manufactured at home, or exported again into foreign Countries, uld be to the publick damage.

2. The *Turkey* Merchants have Shipt out more *Cloth* yearly, since the great encrease of *East-India* Trade than before.

3. The Question is not, Which *Company* sends out most *Woollen* Manufactures, but which is e most Profitable Trade to the Nation, and that is before shewn.

4. If the Exportation of *Bullion* hinders not the Exportation of our *Manufactures*, as in t appears: and if for every 10 *s.* value sent out, 30 *s.* be brought in *Bullion* at the long n, which is evident in the course of the *East-India* Trade, then the Exportation of *Bullion* a great and real advantage.

5. The *Turkey* Merchants do send out a great deal of *Bullion* themselves, which is no lt, but their complaining of others for the same thing is.

6. The truth of the case, at the bottom, is but this; the Importation of better and eaper *raw Silk* from *India*, may touch some *Turkey* Merchants profit at present, tho' it nefits the *Kingdom*, and hinders not the Exportation of *Cloth*: What then? Must one rade be interrupted because it works upon another? At that rate there would be no-hing but Confusion in a Nation *ad infinitum*. Our Plantation *Sugars* have brought down e *Lisbon* Sugars within memory of m n, from 8 *l. per Centum*, to 2 *l.* 10 *s. per Centum*, nd yet the Exportation of our Woollen Manufactures to *Portugal*, is now greater then ver it was: just as 'tis and will prove in the *Turkey* Trade.

7. If those *Turkey* Merchants think the *East-India* Trade so good, why do they not ome into it themselves? The Door is open always to them, and all the *King's* Subjects.

Object. 2. *They say there are not above* 80 *legitimate Merchants in the* East-India *Company.*

Answ. 1 By *Legitimate* Merchants they mean such as have served *Apprenticeships*; in the umber thereof, they reckon short above half.

2. It matters not two Straws to the *Kingdom*, whether they be *legitimate* or *illegitimate*; hey are in the whole 556, which is more by a great many than the *Turkey* Merchants, nd more by above half than they would be, if the Trade were not managed in a *joynt tock.*

Object. 3. *They say the Company have half the known World in their Charter, and that's o much for any Company*, &c.

Answ. 1. They have no more in their *Charter* than all the *East-India* Companies in *Christendom* have in their *Charters.*

2. The *Company* is a Company of all, or of so many of the *King's* Subjects as desired to e concerned in that Trade, or yet do, they buying *Stock.*

Object. *But 'tis dear buying at* 280 *l. per Cent.*

Answ. 1. 'Tis less then the intrinsick value, if the *Stock* were now to be broke up.

2. If it be too dear, any Man may be as justly compelled to sell his *House* at the *Buyers* rice, or else be disseized of it, as his *Stock* in the Company.

Object. 4. *They say the Charter hath exorbitant and illegal Clauses in it.*

Answ. 1. No *Charter* in *Europe* hath less of that kind.

2. 'Tis absolutely necessary, that whoever governs a Trade so remote, and by such a Multitude of Hands as are employed, should have some extraordinary Power committed o them.

3. Whatever is in the *Charter*, the *Company* never did any arbitrary Acts, nor ever eized *Ships* or *Goods* by vertue of their *Charter*, tho they have often had cause.

Object.

Object. 5. *They say the Company have imposed and exacted great Fines, Mulcts and Forfeitures to an immense value.*

Answ. What they take in any case, is by submission of the party, by agreement with the *Master* and *Owners* in Charter-party, or by Arbitrations, and always in pursuance of legal *Obligations*, sealed and delivered.

It is highly reasonable, the *Company* being at above 100000 *l.* yearly charge in *India* and *England*, that whoever participates of the Trade, should proportionably contribute to the Expences that necessarily attend the preservation of it.

Object. 6. *They say, besides Raw Silks, the Company imports wrought Silk, to the prejudice of the Silk Manufacture in* England.

Answ. 1. This lies as much and more against all other wrought *Silks* imported into *England* from *Italy*, *Holland*, &c.

2. The *Silks* which they commonly bring in, are the main part of them *Taffaties*, and other plain or striped *Silks*, such as are not usually made in *England*, but imported from *France*, *Italy*, *Holland*. So this Importation works upon our *Neighbours*.

3. A great part of the wrought Silks imported by the *Company*, are again Shipt out to *France*, *Holland*, &c. to the great advantage of the *King* and *Kingdom*.

Object. 7. *Some Clothiers complain that the* East-India *Company hinders the vent of Cloth.*

Answ. 1. This deserves a thorow *inspection*: 1. *Who they are that complained?* 2. *When and how they began to complain?* 3. *Why, they complain?* 1st. For the time, *when*, it was in the year 1674, or 1675, Then they had the confidence to tell the *Parliament*, the *Company* would spoil the trade of *Cloth*, and bring the price of *Wool* to nothing. But in fact, the *Company* hath now stood five or six Years since that time, and much augmented their Trade for *India*, but *Wool* is advanced in price above 50 *per centum*, and there hath been such a trade for *Woollen* Manufactures, as *England* never saw in any former age. 2. *Who they were that complained?* Not the poor *Kentish* Clothiers, that have lost their trade; nor the *Suffolk* Men, that have lost their Manufacture of *Blew Cloth*, but the *Worcester*, *Gloucester*, and *Somerset-shire* men, that do now make and vend above twenty times the *Cloth* they did before this *Company* was erected. 3dly. *How they began to complain?* Their first *Petition* was drawn only against the *Turkey* Company, for making but one *Cloth* Shiping in a year: But a certain *Counsel* (*since famous for other matters*) told them, they should draw their *Petition* against the *East-India* Company likewise, which they did; whether the *Dutch* or some of England gave the best Fees is uncertain. 4. *Why they complained*: That few understood: Their Trade was wonderfully encreased, and the *East-India* Company had sent out in some one Year above ten times as much *Cloth* as was ever sent out in the time of open Trade.

Object. 8. *They complain that the present Stock is engrossed into a few Hands, some single Adventurers having 16 or 17000 l. principal Stock in their own Names.*

Answ. 1. If true, the Complaint of it would sound better out of the Mouth of an old *Leveller*, than a *Merchants*. None ever pretended to that, much less to level Personal Estates, which if they could be made even at Noon, would be unequal before Night.

2. The *Dutch* think whoever adventures most in their *joynt Stocks*, doth most oblige the *Common-wealth*, tho' he be a *Stranger*, insomuch as one *Swasso a Jew* had at one time in their *East-India Stock* above the value of 30 0000 *l. Sterling.*

3. The more any *Adventurer* hath in the *Stock*, the more he is engaged to study and promote the good of it.

4. Notwithstanding the largeness of any of the *Adventurers Stocks*, there are yet 556 Adventurers, which is a greater number than are to be found in any Trade that hath not a *joynt Stock*.

Object. 9.

Object. 9. *There are many other Ports, and Places within the Limits of the Companies Charter, where Englisb Commodities would vend, which the Company do not Trade unto.*

Answ. 1. There can never be any *Society*, that will more industriously expatiate and enlarge Trade in those Parts of the World, then this hath done, by all peacable means. 100000*l.* will not excuse them for the losses sustained in such attempts.

2. In *India*, a Factory at *Surrat* will share in all the Trades of the *Red Sea*, as well as *Mocha*, and other Parts within the Correspondency of that *Presidency*; The same may be said of *Bantam* and many other Places as well as *Surrat*.

3. In very many Places of *India*, where the *Company* do not settle *Factories*, they carry on a Trade by *Natives*.

Object. 10. *It is said, if the Company were not in a Joynt Stock, many more Ships might be employed in* India, *from one Port to another, in Trading Voyages.*

Answ. 1. The *Company* want neither *Stock*, nor *Skill*, or *will*, to employ as many *Ships* as they can gain by, and have almost doubled the quantity of their *Stock* and *Tunnage* within ten Years.

2. The *Company* have now twenty five *Ships* and Vessels trading in the *East-Indies* from *Port* to *Port*, besides the eleven great *Ships* sent out last Year, which are abundantly enough to answer all the *Companies* occations of that kind.

Object. 11. *That since the East-India Company was Incorporated, Coinage hath abated in England.*

Answ. This a meer groundles *Chimæra*, and will appear so, if the Old *Mint-Master*, as well as the new *Ones*, be examined.

The 3d *Proposition*, *That since the discovery of the East-Indies, the Dominion of the Sea Depends much upon the wain or increase of that Trade, and consequently the Security of the Liberty, Property and Protestant Religion of this Kingdom.*

THe first Part of this *Proposition* is meerly *Historical*, and the proof of it will require little pains, to all that look beyond the present Age; while the *Spanyards* had *Portugal*, and with it the Trade of *India*, they were able to invade *England*, with a *Navy*, by them called *Invincible*, and so it was, as to Mans understanding. The *Dutch* since the *Portugals* sunk in the *Indies*, have grown so potent, in and by that Trade, that they have contended with us for the *Dominion* of the *Seas*, and if through the *Folly or Madness* of a few *unthinking* or *self interested* Men, we should deprive our selves of the *East-India* Trade, we should certainly save them the experiment of Fighting with us again for it; they would carry the *Dominion* of the *Sea* clear, and hold it for ever; or until their *Common-wealth* should be destroyed by *Land force*, or intestine *Broils*.

If we should throw off the *East-India* Trade, the *Dutch* would soon treble their strength and power in *India*, and would become sole *Masters* of all those rich and necessary Commodities of the *East*; and make the *European* World pay five times more for them, than now they do, which would so vastly encreate their Riches, as to render them irresistible. If they have *Trade* and *Money* they will never want *Men*, *Seamen* are Inhabitants of the *Uni-*

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verſe, and where ever they are bred, will reſort to the beſt *Pay* and moſt conſtant *Employment*.

And further all other *Forreign* Trade in *Europe* doth greatly depend upon *East-India* Commodities, and if we looſe the importation of them, we ſhall ſoon abate in all our other forreign *Trade* and *Navigation*; and the *Dutch* will more then proportionably encreaſe theirs: And the Augmentation of their Riches would further enable them to *overballance* us, and all others in *Trade*, as well as in *Naval* ſtrength.

As to the ſecond part of the *Propoſition*; can any Man that looks abroad into the World doubt of the Truth of that *Obſervation* (viz.) That *Trade* never thrives in any Country that is not *Proteſtant*. Since *Queen Elizabeth*'s time our *Cuſtoms* are increaſed from 14000 *l. Per annum*, to above 700000 *l. Per annum*. Is it not evident that the Dutch ſince their being *Proteſtant*, are increaſed more in *Trade* and *Wealth* in one Hundred Years, then the ancient and fortunate *Romans* did in four Hundred Years, after the Foundation of their flouriſhing *Common-Wealth*? Have not the French ſince they were part *Proteſtants* and part *Papiſts* increaſed more in *Trade* and *Shiping* in one Hundred Years, then they did in five Hundred Years before? A *Naval* power never affrights us, *Seamen* never did nor never will deſtroy the *Liberty* of their own Country. They naturally hate *Slavery*, becauſe they ſee ſo much of the *Miſery* of it in other *Countries*: All *Tyrannies* in the World are ſupported by *Land Armies*: No *Abſolute Princes* have great *Navies* or great *Trades*, very few of them can match that little Town of *Hamburgh* in *Shiping*.

Who do we fear may deſtroy our *Liberty*, *Property* and *Religion*, but the *Papiſts* and the *French*, and ſo we ſhould have found it if *God Almighty* had not diſappointed them. Now, under *God's Providence*, what can beſt ſecure us from them, but our *Naval* ſtrength, and what doth eſpecially increaſe, and ſupport that, but our *East-India Trade*. If this be here proved to the *conviction* of *unbyaſſed Engliſh Men*, the conſequence in this *Propoſition* is moſt natural and irrefragable.

The Fourth Propoſition, *That the Trade of the* East-Indies *cannot be carried on to National Advantage, by a regulated Company, or in any other way then by a joynt Stock, which are proved by the following Arguments.*

Argu. 1. THe *Practiſe* and *Experience* of all other *Nations* ſhews this. If it be objected, *This Argument will not hold univerſally for the* Portugals *have a Trade for* East-India, *and yet have no joynt Stock*. 'Tis anſwered, there is a *joynt Stock* for this Trade in *Portugal*, but that is the *King's Exchequer*, who reſerves to himſelf all conſiderable *India* Commodities, and leaves only to his *Subjects* thoſe that are *trivial*: That trade dwindled to nothing, when it came to be confronted and out-done by the more *National* and better conſtituted *joynt Stocks* of *England* and *Holland*.

Argu. 2. Our *Eaſt-India* Company have now their Money at 3 *per cent* Intereſt: others that trade in an open or regulated Trade, muſt value their Money at 6 *per cent*. Now if the *Company*, with their united *Stock* and *Counſels*, and Money at 3 *per cent*, have much ado to hold up againſt the ſubtil *Dutch*, what ſhall poor private *Merchants* of divided, various and contrary Intereſts do, with their little ſeperate *Stocks*, at 6 *per cent per annum*?

Arg. 3. In regard that all other *European* Nations do now drive the *East-India* Trade in *joynt Stocks*, it seems madneſs to enter *raw* and *private* Perſons, againſt ſuch compacted and united *Conſtitutions* of experienced *Counſellors*, ſupported with an inexhauſtible *Treaſure*.

Arg. 4. Should the *Company* be deſtroyed, and the Trade left open, their Privileges in *India* would be loſt, which have coſt vaſt ſums to maintain and retrive, ſome whereof are theſe (*viz.*) *The Liberty of Coinage, and their Money paſſing current in all the King of* Gulconda's *Country. Freedom of Cuſtoms in almoſt all places, and in ſome where the* Dutch *and other Nations pay Cuſtom. At* Fort St. George, *and* Bombay, *the Company hath a right, and doth impoſe a Cuſtom upon the Natives, and all other Nations. In the Empire of* Perſia *they are Cuſtom free, and have yearly from the Emperor above* 3000 *l. in lieu of the half Cuſtom of his own Subjects, and all others trading thither.*

At Bantam *they are at a ſet rate of* 4000 *Dollars* per annum, *for all Cuſtoms, tho' trade be never ſo much increaſed. They are in moſt places of* India, *in effect their own Law-makers, and can Arreſt and Impriſon any Natives that deal with them, or owe them Money.*

All their black Servants, and others employed by them, or trading with them, are free and exempted from the Juriſdiction of the Native, and other Governours.

They are in all places free in their Perſons and Goods, from all Inland Cuſtoms and Duties, which are very great upon the Natives.

Arg. 5. This *Nation* ſuſtained great Loſſes, Damages and Depredations in the three Years of open trade, ſo that at length the very private *Traders* themſelves, were the forwardeſt *Petitioners* for a return to a *joynt Stock*.

Arg. 6. There are above 100 *Kings* and abſolute *Princes* in *India*, and as many *Ports* and Places of Trade, which would need forty *Ambaſſadors*, and all muſt have *Inſtructions*, and carry large *Preſents*.

Arg. 7. *Letters* paſs freely to and from *Turkey* in a ſhort time, and in caſe of Injuries done, the *King*'s men of *War* may ſoon go and revenge them; but *India* is at a far greater diſtance, and no certain return of a *Letter* to be had once in *twelve Moneths* and it is more difficult to maintain a Correſpondence in *India*, from *Port* to *Port*, then between *England* and *Turkey*.

Arg. 8. Where-ever the *Engliſh* ſettle a *Factory*, they muſt preſently build them large *Houſes*, *Ware-houſes*, &c. and take many *Servants*, &c. If it be ſaid, This may be done by a regulated *Company*. It is anſwered, *Firſt*, how ſhall they raiſe a Stock to buy thoſe the *Company* already have, which, with what elſe they have there, have coſt them above 300000 *l. Next*, how ſhall they maintain and defend them? By *Leviations* upon *Goods*. *What*? before there are any *Goods* to tax: No, they ſhall raiſe a *joynt Stock*, to make the firſt purchaſe, and after take only a *Tax* upon Goods to maintain them. Theſe are *abſurd, incongruous and impracticable Notions*. For in a time of *War* & danger, *Men* will forbear *trading*; ſo that there will be no *Goods* to tax when there is moſt need of Money. Whereas the *Governours* or *Committees* have always in their Hands a real *Fond* of above a *Million* of Money, and can borrow ſo much more in *India*, in a few days, if they want it, their *Credit* there being as current as ready *Gold*.

Arg. 9. The *East-India Company* (as have that of *Holland*) have power by their *Charter* to make *War* upon any Nation in *India* at diſcretion; this Power they muſt have for carrying on of their Trade. Now to whom ſhall this Power be delegated in a regulated *Company*? to all *Engliſh men*, or to a ſingle *Ambaſſador*, or to many *Ambaſſadors* and *Conſuls*?

For

The Fifth Proposition, *That the* East-India *Trade more profitable and necessary to the Kingdom of* England *than to any other Kingdom or Nation in* Europe.

1. THis is so, as we are an *Island*, and have our *Security*, as well as the increase of our Riches from our Trade and Strength at *Sea*.

2. The trade of *India* is to *England* not only a great but an unmixt advantage: Whereas to our *Neighbours*, they cannot have it without some mixture of loss in other respects some of them having the production of *Silk* among themselves, as *Italy* and *France*. And they have the sole *Manufacture* of plain *Silks*, such as *Taffaties*, *Sarcenets*, &c. which are brought from *India* cheaper than they can make at home. *Holland*, *Flanders* and *France* in some measure, have the principal *Manufactures*, in *fine Linnens*, *Cambricks*, *Lawns* and *Hollands*, which only *Callico* works upon, to the putting them very much out of request, even in their own *Countries*: Whereas *Callico* doth not much prejudice our strong course sorts of *Linnen* made in *England*. Neither is our *Linnen Manufacture* a matter worth the taking notice of (*whatever some men think*) but in *Holland*, *Flanders*, *France* and some parts of *Germany*, 'tis their main concern, being the *substance* of the *Majority* of their *People*, as the *Woollen Manufacture* is in *England*.

3. The *Dutch* have a standing *contract* with the *King* of *Persia* for all his *Silk*, now in regard *Bengal* Silk can be brought cheaper then that, the *Dutch* by bringing *Silk* from *Bengal* must prejudice that *Contract* in the price of Silk: Whereas *We* having no such *Contract* in *Persia*, do not work upon our selves, as they of necessity must, and yet they are wiser then to slight the *Trade* of *Bengal* for that cause.

For a *Conclusion*, to shew present and future *Ages* in what a Condition the English *East-India* Trade stood, when the *Company* was assaulted by the private designs of *particular Men*, the following *Account* of the present posture of their *Affairs* in 1681, is added (*viz.*) The last year they sent out (which are not yet returned) for the *Coast* of *Cormandel*, and the *Bay of Bengall*, four three *Deck Ships*, the least whereof was *burden* 530 *Tuns*.

For *Surrat* and the *Coast of India*, 3 three *Deck Ships*, the least thereof *Burden* 450 *Tuns*.

For *Bantam* 2 *Ships*, each 600 *Tuns*.

For the *South Seas*, and *China* 2 *Ships*, one 430 *Tuns*, the other 350.

And in all of them the Stock of 479946 *l.* 15*s.* 6 *d.*

This Year (1681) they are sending out for the Coast of *Cormandel* and the *Bay* of *Bengall*, 5 *three Deck Ships*, the least thereof 460. *Tuns*.

For *Surrat* and the *Coast* of *India*, 3 *Ships*, the least thereof 460 *Tuns*.

For *Bantam* 3 *Ships*, *two* of them 360 *Tuns* a peece, the *third* 600 *Tuns*.

And for the *South Seas* and *China* one other great Ship.

And in all of them the Stock of above 600000 *l.*

Note, That the *Company* employ none but *English built Ships*, and besides what they sent out last Year, and are sending this, they have alwayes a considerable *Stock* left in the *Country*, to make and provide *Goods* before-hand.

It is believed that the *Dutch* to have this *Company* destroyed, would give a *Million* of pounds Sterling, and that if they should give two *Millions*, they would have too good a *Bargain* of it.

All that is hitherto wrote, is onely an Abstract of a most elaborate and judicious Treatise published in the Year 1681, It is brought into this narrow compass for the better information of English Men, many of whom have not disposition or leisure to peruse long Tracts, especially where they esteem themselves not concerned. The time when that Treatise was printed and published doth demonstrate, that it was not calculated for the present Conjuncture. The Reader hath here under written, an Abreviation of a Supplement to that Treatise printed and published this present Year 1689, which will inform him of the present Posture and Circumstances of the East-India Companies Affaires.

About the Year 1681, the *Company* had raised the *English* Navigation and Power in *India* much beyond what it was in any former *Age*: But soon after that *destructive* Trade of the *Interlopers* beginning, the *Dutch* took the advantage of that confusion to surprize *Bantam*: Which troubles falling together upon the *Company*, and soon after a general failure of *Credit* in all publick *Funds*, caused many *Adventurers* to sell their *Stocks*.

Whether under all the afore-said *Pressures* the *Company* behaved themselves like true *English men* and *Lovers* of their *Country*, will appear by a *Narrative* of what they have done since the publishing the *Treatise* in 1681, and what now is the present State of the *English* Interest in *India*.

The *Company* have built within these seven Years past 16 New great *Ships* besides many more smaller ones now in their service, These 16 *Ships*, except one which carries but 30 *Guns*, may carry each from 60 to 80 *Guns*.

All of them except one, are three *Deck* Ships, and are of *Burden*, from 900 to 1300 *Tuns* each.

Within the said seven Years (the *Company* having lost *Bantam*) They have built, fortified, and garrisoned three *Forts* in several Parts of *India* for Security of the *Pepper Trade*, which have and will cost them 400000 *l. Sterling*.

The *Company* have now at *Sea, in India*, and coming from thence *January* the last 1688,89. the following *Ships* (*viz.*) fifteen *Ships* consigned to *Bombay* and the Coast of *India*, their *Cargoes* amounting to about 360000 *l. Sterling*.

Thirteen *Ships* consigned to *Fort St George*, &c. on the Coast of *Choromandel*, and to the *Bay* of *Bengall*, their *Cargoes* amounting to near 570000 *l. Sterling*.

And seven *Ships* consigned to *China* and the *South* Seas, their *Cargoes* amounting to near 100000 *l.*

Besides about thirty other armed small *Ships* and Vessels, constantly remaining in the *Country*.

The *Company* have now upon their Hands in *England* unsold, above the value of 700000 *l.* in *East-India* Goods, whereas they do not know of 50000 *l.* value unsold in any other *European* Companies hands, except the *Dutch Spice*.

They have within seven Years so enlarged and fortified the *Fort* of St *George*, and their City of *Madrass*, that it is now one of the finest and largest Cities in those parts of the *World*, containing at least *One Hundred Thousand Families* of all Nations, all subject to such *Laws* for Life and Goods, as the *Company* by vertue of their *Charter* think fit to impose upon them.

The *Customs* and *New Impost* paid the *King* for two Years, from *August* 1685, to *August* 1687, amounted to 255326 *l.* 10 *s.* 1 *d.* Since the *Wars* in *India* it has been less, but now the Wars are over, the *Customs* are like to be more yearly then they were in either of those two Years.

The

The *Company* have built new *Forts* in their *Island* of *Bombay*, and ordered a *dry Dock* to be built there, and all other Conveniencies for repairing and fitting the bigest *English* Ships which was the principal want the *Nation* under went for some Ages.

And, which is the most considerable *National* advantage that ever was attempted there, the *Company* have reduced the principal part of their trade of *Surrat* to their own *Island* of *Bombay*, the *Inhabitants* whereof from *four thousand Families*, when the *Company* first possessed that *Island*, are encreased to *fifty thousand Families*, all subject to the *Companies Laws*; and that *Island* lying upon the North Coast of *India* near *Surrat*, the *Emporium* of the *India* Trade to *Arabia*, *Persia*, *Busserah*. and the *Red Sea*, is of inestimable value to this *Kingdom*. This *Island* hath cost the *Company* in *Fortifying*, *Garrisoning*, &c. at times above 500000 *l.* and never produced any return, nor would have been of use to *England*, if the Trade had not been brought thither. This transition from *Surrat* to *Bombay* could never have been done without a *War*, to make this War upon so great a *Prince* as the *Mogul*, was vulgarly thought a vain or rather distracted attempt *in the Company*; yet by *God's* blessing upon their *Arms*, that *War* (*the charge whereof cannot be computed at less then* 1000000 *l.*) has ended to the eternal honour of our *Nation* and a *Peace* concluded upon such honourable *Articles*, that if a *Blanck* had been delivered to the *Company* in *England* to write down their own *Terms*, they would not have desired more than is granted by the *Articles*, the *Ratifications* whereof from the *Mogul* himself in the *Persian Language*, are now brought home.

The Abstracter of the foregoing Treatise, is no East-India Merchant, nor any way concerned with the Company; Neither is he engaged in this work by any of them, but, being a great lover of his Native Country, he should be much grieved to see England lesser in Naval power and Trade, then any of our Neighbours; whether they be our best FRIENDS, *or our most dangerous Enemies: And therefore, being wonderfully convinced, upon the reading the aforesaid Treatise, He thought it pity that every good English Man should not be enlightned in this Foreign Affair, as well as himself, who had formerly entertained as great prejudices against the East-India Company, as most other Men; and possibly through Ignorance, he may in his discourses, have done them some disservice, which he is sorry for: and therefore, hath contracted the aforesaid Treatise into this narrow compass, that the knowledge of the matters here discussed may spread the further, to the conviction of such who are not byassed by private Interest, but have been imposed upon by loud Clamour and a bold Misrepresentation of things.*

For the New *Question*; Whether the *Company* should exercise *Martial Law*, in the Government of their *Colonies* in *India*? No man in his Wits will make a doubt thereof, who hath read that faithful, pleasant and profitable History of *Purchas* his *Pilgrims*, the first part, printed in the Year 1625. wherein by the course of the *History* he will find that *Martial Law* is more necessary in *India*, than Bread is to the support of Mans Life; and that the *East-India Company* had constantly *Commissions* from the *Crown* for that purpose in the blessed time of *Queen Elizabeth*, and during all the peaceable Reign of King *James* the first.

June *the* 25*th* 1689.

London, Printed and Sold by *Andrew Sowle* at the *Crooked-Billet* in *Holloway-Lane* in *Shoreditch*; And at the *Three Keys* in *Nags-Head-Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*, over against the *Conduit*, 1689.